(b) if so, the amount of monthly expenditure on consumption, respectively, by the people living in the rural and urban areas during the years 2006 to 2008; and

(c) the details of this expenditure during the years 1990 to 1992?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) The per capita consumption expenditure in the rural and urban areas as obtained from the household consumer expenditure surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), in its 45th to 48th rounds and 62nd and 63rd rounds covering the period 1990 to 1992 and 2006 to 2007 is given below. The latest data in this regard is available for 2006-07 (NSS 63rd round).

Monthly Per Capita Consumption Expenditure in Rural and Urban Areas

	Period	NSS Round	per Capita Consumption (Rs.)		Ratio of Urban to Rural
			Rural	Urban	
1.	July 1989 to June 1990	45	189	298	1.57
2.	July 1990 to June 1991	46	202	327	1.62
3.	July 1991 to Dec. 1991	47	244	370	1.52
4.	Jan. 1992 to Dec. 1992	48	247	399	1.62
5.	July 2005 to June 2006	62	625	1171	1.87
6.	July 2006 to June 2007	63	695	1312	1.89

As can be seen from the above table, the per capita consumption expenditure in the urban areas is higher than that in the rural areas. The extent to which the per capita consumption expenditure in the urban areas exceeds that in the areas as a percentage is also given in the table.

Funds for national highway projects

*146. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to attract companies to invest in Highway projects, his Ministry has approached the Finance Ministry seeking low cost funds;

(b) whether a special window from the RBI that would provide for extension of reasonable interest rates for highway projects was also considered;

(c) if so, the projects that are being delayed due to want of funds and to what extent Government has agreed to provide funds to these projects;

(d) by what time they are likely to be completed;

(e) whether National Highways Authority of India has agreed to abandon two projects at Vijayawada and Machilipatnam; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Finance has been requested for considering assured flow of credit at reasonable interest rate to the projects in road sector. Government has decided to authorise the India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) to raise Rs. 10,000 crore through tax-free bonds by 31.3.2009 to be used for refinancing bank lending of longer maturity to eligible infrastructure projects, including highways, in particular. Under this initiative, the IIFCL resources used for refinance would leverage bank financing of double the amount to support a PPP programme of Rs.100,000 crore in the highways sector.

(c) Work on the following five projects under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-V has not commenced on the scheduled appointed date, as these projects have not achieved the financial closure : (i) Surat-Dahisar, (ii) Panipat-Jalandhar, (iii) Chennai-Tada, (iv) Gurgaon-Jaipur and (v) Vijayawada-Chilakaluripet. The Government provides Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for projects undertaken on Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) basis. However, these five projects have been awarded on revenue sharing basis and do not require any VGF.

(d) The projects under NHDP Phase-V are scheduled for completion by December, 2012.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Discussion to counter terrorism

*147. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM SUPRIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments of India and Nepal have met and discussed the steps to counter-terror;

(b) if so, the main points discussed;

(c) whether effective cooperation for combating terrorist activities, including the activities of the Indian Insurgent Group operating from Nepal and the Himalayan nation being used as a major transit point for circulation of fake Indian currency notes in India, were also discussed;

(d) if so, the outcome of the talks held; and

(e) to what extent India and Nepal have taken steps to check the terror activities in both the countries?